

**Indiana Rural Summit  
December 1 and 2, 2011**

**Rural Health Innovation Collaborative (RHIC) Track**

The mission of the Rural Health Innovation Collaborative (RHIC) is to improve and expand interprofessional education, training, and deployment of future health care providers, especially for those committed to serving rural populations. The RHIC also will be an economic engine for west-central Indiana through the development of health care-related jobs and a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization in Terre Haute.

This Collaborative, formally approved as an Indiana nonprofit corporation in December 2009, includes ten partner organizations. Primary members include: the City of Terre Haute, Hamilton Center, Indiana State University, Indiana University School of Medicine, Ivy Tech Community College Wabash Valley, Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation, and Union Hospital and its Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health. Supporting members include: Indiana Area Health Education Center, Indiana Rural Health Association, and the Vermillion-Parke Community Health Center.

The RHIC partners formally joined together to respond to the current and worsening health care worker shortages. In addition to addressing workforce needs, the development of the collaborative will result in neighborhood revitalization and economic development, including physical infrastructure build-out, business expansion and attraction, and the increase of rural health care services, training, and research.

The RHIC represents a unique opportunity to align the resources and strategic directions of several community institutions to address a grand challenge – improving health care in rural Indiana and beyond. At the same time, the combined efforts will spawn neighborhood revitalization and economic development progress throughout the geographic area hosting the initiative. Terre Haute is poised to become the site of interprofessional, rural-focused health care training and research as well as an expanding constellation of associated mixed-use commercial and residential properties. The RHIC will make critical contributions to the health and economic vitality of the local community, the region, and the state. The Partners expect nothing less than a transformation lasting for generations.

For more information, please visit: [www.TheRHIC.org](http://www.TheRHIC.org) or contact the RHIC's executive director, Sarah Snider at [mcrhscs@uhhg.org](mailto:mcrhscs@uhhg.org) or 724-594-4218.

**Breakout Session # 1 (Thursday):** *“Inter-Professional Education: Serving the Health Care Needs of Rural Indiana”* Indiana faces severe health care shortages in its rural communities. This session will focus on the RHIC's efforts to establish a collaborative inter-professional education initiative dedicated to ensuring Indiana has a well-prepared team of health care professionals to provide enhanced access to quality care in rural communities.

**Breakout Session # 2 (Thursday):** *“The RHIC District – A Learn, Live, Work, Play Neighborhood that Encourages Innovation and Collaboration”* This session will focus on the exciting RHIC District being designed in Terre Haute and how the RHIC sparked this urban development initiative.

**Breakout Session #3 (Friday):** *“Improving the Health of Rural Indiana Residents”* This session will provide an overview of several technology-related projects that the Indiana Rural Health Association and the Lugar Center for Rural Health support that are aimed at improving the health and well-being of Indiana residents, particularly those in rural areas.

**Breakout Session #4 (Friday):** *“Health Care Transformation and the Impact on Rural Communities”* This session will present a comprehensive picture of how health system transformation will contribute to the economic future of the state’s rural areas.